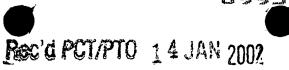
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Jonathan W. Clarke et al.))
Serial No. 09/936,464 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·)))
For: TUFTING-MACHINE) Attorney Docket: 047.0057

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the subject applications as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4 through 7 and enter the following new claims 8 through 25:

- 8. (New) A method for operating a tufting machine comprising at least one double-sliding needlebar, loopers or hooks to pick up yarn delivered through needles supported on the at least one double-sliding needle-bar, knives to cut loops of yarn formed by the loopers or hooks, and driving means, said method being characterized in that the movement of the at least one double-sliding needlebar, the movement of the loopers or the hooks, or the movement of the knives is non-simple harmonic motion and, further characterized in that the at least one double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand at top dead center so that the needles do not tag the back-stitches.
- 9. (New) The method claimed in claim 8, further characterized in that the double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand at the pick-up point, so that the pick-up of the yarn by the loops or hooks is assisted.
- 10. (New) The method claimed in claim 8 or 9, further characterized in that the at least one double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand above the backing to extend the time available for feeding of the primary backing fabric.
- 11. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, 2, 8 or 9, further characterized in that the loopers are

